

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims:

1-55. (Cancelled).

56-59. (Cancelled).

60. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 59~~ A method for preparing one or more cDNA molecules from one or more RNA templates, the method comprising incubating said RNA templates in a buffer solution containing dNTPs and one or more primers complementary to at least a portion of one or more of the RNA templates with a purified DNA polymerase derived from *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (Bst) type strain 5 in the presence of at least 1 mM magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions, whereby cDNA molecules complementary to one or more of the RNA templates are obtained and wherein the purified DNA polymerase is full-length Bst DNA polymerase type strain 5.

61. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 59~~ A method for preparing one or more cDNA molecules from one or more RNA templates, the method comprising incubating said RNA templates in a buffer solution containing dNTPs and one or more primers complementary to at least a portion of one or more of the RNA templates with a purified DNA polymerase derived from *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (Bst) type strain 5 in the presence of at least 1 mM magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions, whereby cDNA molecules complementary to one or more of the RNA templates are obtained and wherein the purified DNA polymerase is the product of a subtilisin digestion and is the truncated large fragment of full-length Bst DNA polymerase type strain 5, wherein the fragment: (a) has a mass of about 55 to about 65 kDa as determined by 10% SDS PAGE; (b) lacks 5'-to-3' exonuclease activity; and (c)

has reverse transcriptase activity in the presence of magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~59~~ 61 wherein the magnesium ion concentration is about 1 mM to about 10 mM.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~59~~ 61 wherein the primers that are complementary to at least a portion of the RNA templates are selected from the group consisting of: (a) target-specific primers; (b) oligo(dT) primers; and (c) random primers.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (New Claim) The method of claim 60 wherein the magnesium ion concentration is about 1 mM to about 10 mM.

67. (New Claim) The method of claim 60 wherein the primers that are complementary to at least a portion of the RNA templates are selected from the group consisting of: (a) target-specific primers; (b) oligo(dT) primers; and (c) random primers.